

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LIBREV 01130 261918Z

61

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /014 W  
----- 086766

R 261003Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO USDOC WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 6667

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIBREVILLE 1130

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELTN, BEXP, GB, US

SUBJ: TRANSGABON RAILROAD

REF: (A) STATE 172732; (B) LIBREVILLE 1067; (C) LIBREVILLE 1609,  
12/16/74

1. EMBASSY WELCOMES MORRISON-KNUDSEN INTEREST IN FOURTH  
LEG OF TRANSGABON. HOWEVER, AS POINTED OUT REF B, AT  
PRESENT TIME FOURTH LEG OF TRANSGABON JUST IDEA AND ONE  
THAT IS NOT YET ACCEPTED IN ALL OF GOG. EMBASSY BELIEVES  
THAT FOURTH LEG WILL EVENTUALLY BE BUILT, IF ONLY  
BECAUSE PORT-GENTIL SECOND LARGEST CITY IN GABON AND  
CURRENTLY HAS NO LAND LINK WITH REST OF COUNTRY, BUT  
THIS WILL CERTAINLY NOT BE BEFORE 1985 AND COULD BE  
CONSIDERABLY LATER. THUS, IT PREMATURE TO DISCUSS QUESTIONS  
SUCH AS FINANCING, COMPETITION, ETC., THOUGH  
OBVIOUSLY CURRENT CONSORTIUM BUILDING FIRST TWO LEGS  
CAN BE EXPECTED TO TAKE INTEREST IN BUILDING FOURTH LEG.  
IT IS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT CONTRACT FOR FEASIBILITY  
STUDY COULD BE AWJRDED WITHIN NEXT TWO YEARS, ESPECIALLY  
IF THERE CONTINUED INTEREST IN MOVING MINERAL PORT FROM  
SANTA CLARA TO PORT-GENTIL.

2. REGARDING THIRD LEG, REF C POINTED OUT THAT NOTHING  
WILL BE FINALLY DECIDED ON THIS UNTIL BETHLEHEM STEEL'S  
STUDIES OF IRON DEPOSITS ARE FINISHED, WHICH WILL TAKE  
AT LEAST TWO YEARS. PHILIP HOLZMAN HAS ALREADY BEEN  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LIBREV 01130 261918Z

GIVEN CONTRACT FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY THIS LEG AND HAS

NOT, TO EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE, EVEN BEGUN WORK YET.

3. IN SPITE OF ABOVE, EMBASSY BELIEVES VISIT OF M-K  
OFFICERS AT THIS TIME WOULD BE USEFUL AS IT WOULD PERMIT  
THEM TO CONTACT WITH GOG OFFICIALS, PARTICULARLY  
MINISTER OF PLAN ANCHOUEY, AND EXPRESS THEIR INTEREST IN  
DOING FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR FOURTH LEG. AND, CONTRACT  
FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY WOULD OBVIOUSLY IMPROVE M-K'S CHANCES  
FOR EVENTUAL CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR FOURTH LEG AND  
WOULD MOST LIKELY IMPROVE THEIR CHANCES ON THIRD LEG AS WELL.  
STEIGMAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CONSTRUCTION, RAILROADS, ROLLING STOCK, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975LIBREV01130  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750258-0638  
**From:** LIBREVILLE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750718/aaaaaapye.tel  
**Line Count:** 72  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 172732, 75 LIBREVILLE 1067, 75 LIBREVILLE 1609  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <25 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2003 by greeneet>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TRANSGABON RAILROAD  
**TAGS:** ELTN, BEXP, GB, US  
**To:** COM STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006